

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 **Claim 1 (currently amended):** An intermediate object
2 linking method of linking a plurality of intermediate objects
3 to form an executable object, said method performed by an
4 apparatus, said method comprising:
5 an intermediate object linking order forming step which
6 decides linking orders of the plurality of
7 intermediate objects;
8 a linking processing step which executes linking
9 processes of the plurality of intermediate objects
10 based on the linking orders decided by the
11 intermediate object linking order forming step to
12 get an executable object;
13 a comparing step which compares program size of the
14 executable objects obtained by the linking
15 processing step with the program size of a
16 executable objects stored in a storing section every
17 time when the linking order is changed;
18 a storing step for storing the program size of the
19 executable objects and the linking order obtained by
20 the linking processing step in the storing section
21 to update when the program size of the executable
22 objects obtained by the linking processing step is
23 smaller than the program size of the executable
24 objects stored in the storing section at the
25 comparing step; and

26 a repeating step for changing the linking orders by the
27 intermediate object linking order forming step and
28 executing repeatedly the linking processing step,
29 the comparing step, and the storing step,
30 wherein a minimum program size of the executable object
31 can be determined without any manual intervention
32 being utilized in examining the linking orders of
33 the intermediate objects.

1 **Claim 2 (original):** An intermediate object linking
2 method according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate object
3 linking order forming step decides the linking orders by a
4 permutation algorithm.

1 **Claim 3 (original):** An intermediate object linking
2 method according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate object
3 linking order forming step decides the linking orders by a
4 genetic algorithm.

1 **Claim 4 (previously presented):** An intermediate object
2 linking unit for linking a plurality of intermediate objects
3 to form an executable object, comprising:
4 an intermediate object linking order forming section
5 which decides linking orders of the plurality of
6 intermediate objects;
7 a linker starting section which executes linking
8 processes of the plurality of intermediate objects
9 based on the linking orders decided by the
10 intermediate object linking order forming section to
11 form an executable object;
12 a comparing section which compares program size of the
13 executable objects every time when the linking order
14 is changed; a storing section which stores the

15 program size of the executable objects and the
16 linking order; and
17 a repeating section which changes the linking orders by
18 the intermediate object linking order forming
19 section and
20 operating repeatedly the linker starting section, the
21 comparing section, and the storing section,
22 wherein the comparing section compares the program size
23 of the executable objects formed by the linker
24 starting section with the program size of the
25 executable objects stored in the storing section,
26 wherein the storing section stores the program size of
27 the executable objects and the linking order formed
28 by the linker starting section when the program size
29 of the executable objects formed by the linker
30 starting section is smaller than the program size of
31 the executable objects stored in the storing section
32 at the comparison by the comparing section.

1 **Claim 5 (original):** An intermediate object linking unit
2 according to claim 4, wherein the intermediate object linking
3 order forming section decides the linking orders by a
4 permutation algorithm.

1 **Claim 6 (original):** An intermediate object linking unit
2 according to claim 4, wherein the intermediate object linking
3 order forming section decides the linking orders by a genetic
4 algorithm.

1 **Claim 7 (previously presented):** A linker unit for
2 linking a plurality of intermediate objects to form an
3 executable object, comprising:

4 an intermediate object linking order forming section
5 which decides linking orders of the plurality of
6 intermediate objects;
7 a linking processing section which executes linking
8 processes of the plurality of intermediate objects
9 based on the linking orders decided by the
10 intermediate object linking order forming section to
11 form an executable object;
12 a comparing section which compares program size of the
13 executable objects every time when the linking order
14 is changed;
15 a storing section which stores the program size of the
16 executable objects and the linking order; and
17 a repeating section which changes the linking orders by
18 the intermediate object linking order forming
19 section and operating repeatedly the linker starting
20 section, the comparing section, and the storing
21 section,
22 wherein the comparing section compares the program size
23 of the executable objects formed by the linker
24 starting section with the program size of the
25 executable objects stored in the storing section,
26 wherein the storing section stores the program size of
27 the executable objects and the linking order formed
28 by the linker starting section when the program size
29 of the executable objects formed by the linker
30 starting section is smaller than the program size of
31 the executable objects stored in the storing section
32 at the comparison by the comparing section.

1 **Claim 8 (original):** A linker unit according to claim 7,
2 wherein the intermediate object linking order forming section
3 decides the linking orders by a permutation algorithm.

1 **Claim 9 (original):** A linker unit according to claim 7,
2 wherein the intermediate object linking order forming section
3 decides the linking orders by a genetic algorithm.

1 **Claim 10 (currently amended):** A compiler driving unit
2 for translating a source program by starting one or more of a
3 compiler, an assembler, and a linker, ~~etc.~~ to form an
4 executable object, said unit comprising:

5 an intermediate object linking order forming section
6 which decides linking orders of the plurality of
7 intermediate objects;

8 a linker starting section which executes linking
9 processes of the plurality of intermediate objects
10 based on the linking orders decided by the
11 intermediate object linking order forming section to
12 form an executable object;

13 a comparing section which compares program size of the
14 executable objects every time when the linking order
15 is changed; a storing section which stores the
16 program size of the executable objects and the
17 linking order; and

18 a repeating section which changes the linking orders by
19 the intermediate object linking order forming
20 section and operating repeatedly the linker starting
21 section, the comparing section, and the storing
22 section,

23 wherein the comparing section compares the program size
24 of the executable objects formed by the linker
25 starting section with the program size of the
26 executable objects stored in the storing section,
27 and

28 wherein the storing section stores the program size of
29 the executable objects and the linking order formed
30 by the linker starting section when the program size
31 of the executable objects formed by the linker
32 starting section is smaller than the program size of
33 the executable objects stored in the storing section
34 at the comparison by the comparing section.

1 **Claim 11 (original):** A compiler driving unit according
2 to claim 10, wherein the intermediate object linking order
3 forming section decides the linking orders by a permutation
4 algorithm.

1 **Claim 12 (original):** A compiler driving unit according
2 to claim 10, wherein the intermediate object linking order
3 forming section decides the linking orders by a genetic
4 algorithm.

1 **Claim 13 (currently amended):** A recording medium for
2 recording a program for linking a plurality of intermediate
3 objects to form an executable object, wherein the program for
4 causing a computer to execute a method comprising:
5 an intermediate object linking order forming step which
6 decides linking orders of the plurality of
7 intermediate objects;
8 a linking processing step which executes linking
9 processes of the plurality of intermediate objects
10 based on the linking orders decided by the
11 intermediate object linking order forming step to
12 get an executable object;
13 a comparing step which compares program size of the
14 executable objects obtained by the linking
15 processing step with the program size of a

16 executable objects stored in a storing section every
17 time when the linking order is changed;
18 a storing step for storing the program size of the
19 executable objects and the linking order obtained by
20 the linking processing step in the storing section
21 to update when the program size of the executable
22 objects obtained by the linking processing step is
23 smaller, than the program size of the executable
24 objects stored in the storing section at the
25 comparing step; and
26 a repeating step for changing the linking orders by the
27 intermediate object linking order forming step and
28 executing repeatedly the linking processing step,
29 the comparing step, and the storing step,
30 wherein a minimum program size of the executable object
31 can be determined without any manual intervention
32 being utilized in examining the linking orders of
33 the intermediate objects.

1 **Claim 14 (original):** A recording medium according to
2 claim 13, wherein the intermediate object linking order
3 forming step decides the linking orders by a permutation
4 algorithm.

1 **Claim 15 (original):** A recording medium according to
2 claim 13, wherein the intermediate object linking order
3 forming step decides the linking orders by a genetic
4 algorithm.